

**FAD Emergency/Surveillance**

**Introduction**

The incumbent serves, on a time-limited basis, as an Animal Health Technician (AHT) for Veterinary Services, during emergency situations when permanent APHIS resources are engaged in surveillance activity or overwhelmed in a Foreign Animal Disease or emerging disease outbreak. He/she is responsible for technical and nonprofessional specialized work encompassing a variety of animal disease control and eradication programs.

**Duties and Responsibilities:**

Major Duties include, but are not limited to:

- Assists and supports Veterinary Medical Officers (VMO) with the examination of herds and/or individuals animals for signs of disease
- Where State regulations, laws or policies permit, collects specimens for submission to laboratories and administers vaccines
- Assists VMO's with the humane euthanasia of diseased or exposed animals
- Supervises and/or conducts the disposal of animal carcasses
- Supervises and/or conducts cleaning and disinfection procedures
- Uses proper identification devices and techniques for inspected exposed, diseased or vaccinated animals
- Follows correct biosecurity procedures while assisting VMO's or working independently
- Accurately completes official government documents and forms and keeps accurate records
- Supervises the humane handling and movement of exposed and/or diseased animals
- Inspects livestock markets, slaughter establishments, trucks, and other vehicles to ensure disease prevention, control and eradication requirements are being met.

**Factors:**

**1.) Knowledge Required:**

Must possess practical knowledge of common animal diseases and have the ability to identify disease symptoms and symptoms of health problems.

Knowledge of techniques employed to properly dispose of animal carcasses in a safe manner.

Knowledge of biosecurity techniques.

Knowledge of proper administration of vaccines and specimen collection techniques.

Knowledge of agency policy and guidelines applicable to the work and related animal health laws and regulations.

## **2.) Supervisory Controls:**

Incumbent is under the general technical supervision of a Veterinarian or higher grade technician. Additional supervision may be provided by one or more field veterinarians. Supervisor outlines objectives and describes procedures to be followed on new or non-repetitive assignments. Work is reviewed for adherence to policies and compliance with procedures, instructions, and precedents. When difficult technical issues or problems arise, the incumbent is expected to seek advice of a field veterinarian or supervisor. Work is reviewed by periodic tours with the incumbent and through a review of records and reports.

## **3.) Guidelines:**

Guidelines include agency policies, directives, and regulations and established biosecurity procedures. The incumbent uses judgment and seeks additional interpretation from superiors on significant matters not covered by established criteria, in selecting, adapting and applying guidelines successfully to pertinent situations.

## **4.) Complexity:**

Duties involved a series of related tasks involving animal disease prevention, control and eradication requirements. Assignments involve supporting and assisting veterinarians in the treatment of disease, as well as the gathering of epidemiological information, the collection of blood and tissue samples, and the inspection of animal operations adherence to requirements.

## **5.) Scope and Effect:**

The purpose of this position is to contribute to the control of diseases through the assisting and supporting veterinarians, especially through the safe handling and movement of diseased and/or exposed animals and to ensure the safe disposal of disease animals and their disposal. Emergency outbreaks pose a threat to individual farmers and livestock marketing, with possible national or international ramifications.

## **6.) Personal Contacts:**

Contacts are with APHIS, VS and state health employees, as well as private farmers, and production facility managers and employees.

**7.) Purpose of Contacts:**

The purpose of the contacts is to disseminate information about animal disease prevalence and explain rationale for actions, dealing with individuals who may be uncooperative or in situations where conflicting interests exist. Tact is required when persuading individuals to comply with disease prevention regulations and control requirements.

**8.) Physical Demands:**

Inspection and examination work requires regular and recurring prolonged standing, walking, stooping, bending, climbing, handling and restraint of animals.

**9.) Work Environment:**

Work is performed under field conditions, with possible exposure to extreme heat and cold, diseases and contact with large, unruly animals capable of inflicting injury. Protective clothing and gear is required if working with animals infected with diseases which are communicable to humans and as part of biosecurity measures.